



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of February 24th, 2014

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:05 pm.

The Board read the minutes of February 10th, 2014. **After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the minutes of February 10th, 2014 as amended.**

Highway Superintendent – Flaggers Policy

Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring, informed the Board that he typically uses his employees to direct traffic. He has hired a local Flagger for part time work, but prefers to close the road being worked on if it is not a main route. For high-traffic roads, Mr. Loring chooses the Town's Police Officers for detail due to their effectiveness of slowing drivers. The Superintendent noted that he intends to have his entire crew become certified Flaggers through a Bay State Roads program later this year.

The Board discussed the review of Highway employee, William Ruane and the recommendation of Mr. Loring to increase his salary by 30¢ per hour.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the 30¢ per hour increase in salary for William Ruane.

The Highway Superintendent explained the contract agreement for Foresight Land Services, Inc. An Engineer from Foresight will prepare an updated Berkshire Region TIP Project Form on behalf of the Town for the reconstruction of Route 57 from Town line, to Town line at the cost of \$2,500. Updating and resubmitting the form keeps the Town on the TIP's list for funding of the project. In order to be eligible, the Town would need to invest upwards of \$100,000 in

engineering costs before the money would be granted. The Board and Mr. Loring discussed budgeting money for the engineering costs.

The Board requested that the Superintendent compile a priority list of roads that are need of repair for further review.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the allocation of \$2,500 [from the Roads & Bridges budget] for preliminary engineering.

Budgets

Chairman Yohalem read aloud the following budgets:

Contingency - \$3,000

Selectmen's Expenses - \$4,000

Grant Writer Expenses - \$500

Audit - \$8,000

Accounting Officer Expenses - \$4,105

Website - \$2,425

Police Expenses - \$21,550

Machinery Expense - \$71,046

Town Hall Expenses - \$41,400

The budget submitted for Town Hall Expenses were held by both the Finance Committee and Board. All other budgets were previously approved by the Finance Committee, with more than half of the amounts consistent with last year's budgets.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to approve the budgets for Contingency, Selectmen's Expenses, Grant Writer Expenses, Audit, Accounting Officer Expenses [Selectman White recused herself], Website, Police Expenses and Machinery Expense.

Chairman's Updates and Announcements

Selectman White announced that Betty Quinn of Sullivan & Sullivan will be calling Monday to speak with herself and the Treasurer at 11:00 am, to talk more about minimum bids and the bidding procedure on the properties for auction.

It was noted that the Special Permit Hearing for David Ralph is scheduled for next Monday, March 3rd. A letter was sent to Mr. Ralph and his Attorney outlining the discussion with Town Counsel regarding the necessity for a road to the property, accessible by emergency vehicles, and a water source that passes inspection by the Board of Health.

Chairman Yohalem pointed out that the artificial traffic light is still hanging in front of the Library. Michael Skorput has been in contact with the party responsible to remove it.

Chairman Yohalem announced that the School Budget Committee will be meeting on Thursday at 5:00 pm to present the revisions to the school budget. The Chairman expressed his hope to meet with School Superintendent, Dave Hastings tomorrow to discuss the Town's portion of the school budget be lowered to 2 ½ percent.

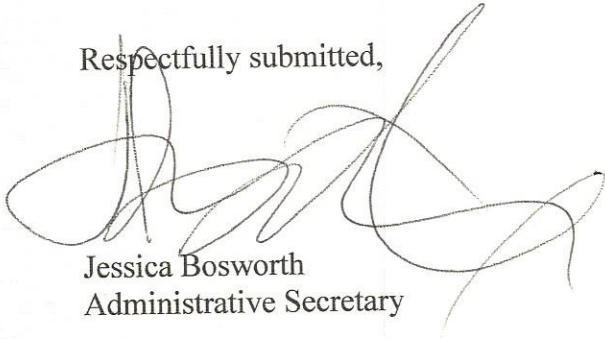
The Board reviewed and discussed the outstanding budgets, which include all salary budgets.

The Board reviewed and discussed the Expenditures Report.

Selectman Shalaby announced that the Emergency Services Fund will be meeting Thursday night to hear a proposal from Dave Herrick of the Fire Company, to accommodate the Police Department and Ambulance Squad in the old fire station, both offices and vehicles. The Board will invite the Police and Fire Chiefs, the Presidents of the Fire Company and Emergency Services Fund, and Dave Herrick to the March 10th meeting in order to discuss the future plans of the building.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Bosworth', is written over the typed name and title.

Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary